

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the NonFinal Office Action mailed March 13, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-10 and 12-21 were rejected. Claims 11, 22 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite allowance and further clarify the invention, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 12 and 23 to better define various features of their invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,977,940 issued Masahiko Akiyama et al. (hereinafter "Akiyama"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the reference relied upon does not disclose what is claimed in independent claims 1 and 12 as amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 11. Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1 and contain all limitations thereof.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 22. Claims 13-18 depend from Claim 12 and contain all limitations thereof.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-10 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama as applied to Claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,965,907 issued to Rong-Ting Huang et al. (hereafter "Huang"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the references relied upon do not teach or suggest, individually or in combination, what is claimed in independent claims 1 and 12 as amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 11. Claims 8-10 depend from Claim 1 and contain all limitations thereof.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 22. Claims 19-21 depend from Claim 12 and contain all limitations thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's careful review of the Application and indication that Claims 11, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 11, and canceled Claim 11. Applicants have amended Claim 12 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 22, and canceled Claim 22. Applicants have amended Claim 23 into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 11.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the

claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further requests reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and further respectfully request that there be an early notice of allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants acknowledge that the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 19, 2001 were not considered since the Information Disclosure Statement failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(1). Applicants therefore enclose herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants believe the Information Disclosure Statement being filed herewith is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1).

As the Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing of the first office action on the merits, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefore, and further authorize the Commissioner to charge Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account Number 02-0383, Order Number 068363.0201, for the

\$180.00 fee due in association with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449. Applicants believe no additional fees are due with the filing of this response.

SUMMARY

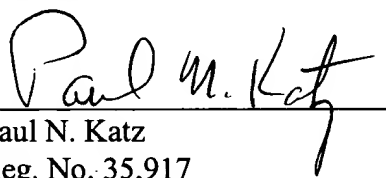
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail, as below.

Applicants believe that there are no additional fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any additional fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and further direct that any and all additional fees due are charged to, or any overpayments are credited to, Baker Botts L.L.P.

Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 068363.0201.

Respectfully submitted,

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